

LIBRARY

NORTH WALSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1947.

The Chairman and Members of the North Walsham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December 1947.

The preparation of this report has been delayed as it covers the period of office of my two predecessors: for this reason I do not feel that much more than a statistical survey can be offered.

The outstanding features of the year's work has been the transfer of duties from your part-time District Medical Officer of Health to a full-time Medical Officer of Health acting for the combined Districts of Cromer, North Walsham, Sheringham and the Erpingham Rural District. This transfer took place on April 21st 1947.

Dr. R.C. Macleod was the first holder of this post. The appointment is combined with that of Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer and also that of Medical Officer to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Roughton. The programme of work is so arranged that the Medical Officer of Health is available in your District on an average of one half day a week.

It is necessary for me to draw your attention to the relatively small numbers in the various groups of statistics which are presented. I feel that too much significance should not be given to the exact percentages or other units which may be derived from them as it will be easily appreciated that a small variation in any group of figures will cause a considerable alteration in percentage. This gives rise to fallacies in interpretation and is always likely to occur where only small numbers are involved.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Infants may be immunised free of charge either by General Practitioners or in Infant Welfare Clinics or in special sessions held in local schools. The work is progressing in the District but it is felt that a true picture is not given by the number of notifications received: probably there is a higher immunisation rate than the figures indicate owing to some cases not being notified.

Poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis (commonly known as Infantile Paralysis) caused grave concern in Britain in 1947. Fortunately the District escaped the infection. As yet we do not know how the disease is spread and so the highest standards of general hygiene are even more necessary in case some unrecognised loophole is left as a route of infection and a risk to the general community.

Water.

The Water Supply of the Urban District is by pipe from a deep well and boreholes with 2 water towers of a total capacity of 100,000 galls. The Waterworks is the property of the District Council.

1. During the year the water supply was satisfactory in quality, but use was subject to restrictions owing to the fact that non-delivery of steel prevented work on an approved contract for a new borehole being started.
2. There is piped supply for the whole of the built-up area. No analysis was made during the year but regular bacteriological examination has since been arranged for.
3. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
4. The water (which is from Boreholes in the chalk) passes through Candy filters and is chlorinated at the Pumping Station.
5. Number of dwelling houses supplied : 1370
Number of population supplied : 4017
(a) Direct to the houses : 3783
(b) By Standpipe : 234

Drainage and Sewerage.

A scheme for extending the sewage disposal works and laying new sewers was submitted to the Ministry of Health in December 1947.

I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mr Morris your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

(SIGNED) W.S. PARKER M.B.Ch.B., M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Local Health Office,
Norwich Rd,
Cromer.

Medical Officer of Health.

Population. 4,398
 Area 4,256 acres
 Number of Dwellings. 1500

Birth rate per 1,000 population 19.1
 Death Rate per 1,000 population 19.8

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	49	30	79
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
	51	33	84

Illegitimacy rate 5.9%

One Still-birth occurred, a female (legitimate) child.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate			Nil

Deaths in the Urban District.

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
42	44	86

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Cases on Register.	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
(a) End of 1946.	4	6	2	5
(b) End of 1947	2	5	2	5

Notification of Infectious Disease during 1947.

Cerebro-Meningitis.	1.
Puerperal pyrexia	2.
Scarlet Fever.	1.
Whooping Cough.	4.
Measles.	76.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria up to the end of 1947. These are shown in age-groups corresponding to the year in which they were born.

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1938-42.	1933-37.	Total.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	
50	96	81	54	204	228	713

No cases of diphtheria were notified in the District in 1947.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	1	1	2
Measles	-	1	1
Encephalitis	1	-	1
Cancer	5	11	16
Cerebral Haemorrhage	10	7	17
Heart Disease	12	11	23
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	-	2	2
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Other Respiratory Disease	1	-	1
Infantile Diarrhoea (under age 2)	-	2	2
Premature Birth	2	2	4
Birth Injury	1	1	2
Violent Death	-	1	1
All other causes	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>42</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>86</u>